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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/595,354	06/15/2000	George Mentrup		9313

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Kansas City, MO 64105

EXAMINER

ZAND, KAMBIZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2132

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/595,354

PRG  
Applicant(s)

MENTRUP ET AL.

Examiner

Kambiz Zand

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-6,11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f):  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. **Claims 1 and 4-19** have been examined.
2. **Claims 2 and 3** have been cancelled.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement PTO-1449***

3. The pages of the all references submitted by applicant have been considered.

### **Drawings**

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description, example: items "12" on page 6, lines 16-20 and page 7, line 2; item "20,18,14" on page 2 and 3 of paper number 6 (preliminary amendment). Correction of all similar cases is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

5. **Claims 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, 15 and 17** are objected to because of the following informalities: Typo error. Claims 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, 15 and 17 refer to step "(a)" as other steps may follow. **Examiner considers phrase "(a)" as a typo error and suggests phrase "(a)" be removed from the claim language.** Appropriate clarification or correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. **Claims 1 and 4-6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vlarr (5,321,755 A) recited in the IDS (paper number 5).

**As per claim 1** Vlarr (5,321,755 A) teach a method for storing and encrypting one or more sequences of characters within a geometric grid positioned on a device, comprising;

- a) choosing a master code sequence of characters (see fig.2; col.2, lines 3-11 where the encrypted characters are the master code of the Applicant);
- b) placing said master code sequence of characters within said geometric grid so that the correct order of said characters is not readily apparent (see col.2, lines 3-66 where the encrypted characters covers the order of the correct order of the code);
- c) selecting one sequence of characters representing information to be stored and encrypted (see col.2, lines 3-19 where one sequence are encrypted and stored on the disk as an storage area); and

d) placing said sequence of characters within said geometric grid such that the correct order of said sequence is not readily apparent and such that the location of each character of said sequence in the geometric grid has a predetermined relationship to the location of at least one character of said master code sequence of characters (see col.2, lines 3-65 where in line 62-66 disclose the corresponding relationship between set of characters and the number of subdivision where the other encrypted characters are disclosed).

**As per claim 4** Vlarr (5,321,755 A) teach a method for encryption and retrieving a data word having a data sequence of data characters using a two dimensional grid of boxes on an encryption sheet and comprising the steps of :

a) selecting a master word having a known master sequence of master characters (see fig.2; col.2, lines 3-11 where the encrypted characters are the master code of the Applicant);

b) recording said master word on said encryption sheet in a scrambled sequence of said master characters other than said master sequence along a master line of said boxes of said grid (see col.2, lines 3-65 where in line 62-66 disclose the corresponding relationship between set of characters and the number of subdivision where the other encrypted characters are disclosed);

c) recording said data word along a data line of boxes of said grid in said scrambled sequence by a fixed geometric offset of each of said data characters to at least one of said master characters (see fig.1-3 where the offset represented by the characters in

represented by X in comparison with other grid boxes that represent other characters in either row or col. of the item 1 or 5); and

d) retrieving said data word by finding said master characters in said scrambled sequence and locating said data characters by reference to said fixed geometric offset of said data characters respectively to said master characters in said scrambled sequence (see col.3, lines 52-57 and col.4, lines 1-2 where the decoding or retrieving of the code being done in relationship with the offset value which is represented by the index marker that is aligned with each successive letter ).

**As per claims 5 and 6** Vlarr (5,321,755 A) teach a method as set forth in claim 4 and including the steps of: establishing said fixed geometric offset between each master character and a selected plurality of data characters and establishing said fixed geometric offset between a selected plurality of master characters and each data character (see col.2, lines 53-65 where each grid allows a separate number to be encrypted and therefor different combination of master code characters and data characters are present since the offset value is being able to change constantly based on the different grid's encryption algorithm with respect to characters and numbers).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2132

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 11 and 12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vlarr (5,321,755 A) recited in the IDS (paper number 5) in view of Mosley (5,251,259) recited in the IDS (paper number 5) by Applicant.

**As per claims 11 and 12** Vlarr teach all limitations of the claims as applied in the claim 4 above but do not disclose explicitly providing a magnetic strip on said encryption sheet and recording a machine readable sequence independent of said data word and said master word. However Mosley teach providing a magnetic strip on said encryption sheet and recording a machine readable sequence independent of said data word and said master word (see col.3, lines 4-43 where the magnetic strip on encryption sheet is provided and where by scanning the stripe through a scanner that is machine readable device where a sequence such as PIN or number keys which is independent from the master word and data word the information is authenticated). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize Mosely's magnetic stripe machine readable onto Vlarr's encryption sheet within a geometric grid positioned on a device in order to have credit card or similar type smart card's authentication and process by adding different PINs that are being used in specific sequence changing each calendar day and therefore creating different security layers.

### Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 13-19 are allowed.

11. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Vlarr (5,321,755 A) teach a method for storing and encrypting one or more sequences of characters within a geometric grid positioned on a device, comprising;

- a) choosing a master code sequence of characters;
- b) placing said master code sequence of characters within said geometric grid so that the correct order of said characters is not readily apparent ;
- c) selecting one sequence of characters representing information to be stored and encrypted; and
- d) placing said sequence of characters within said geometric grid such that the correct order of said sequence is not readily apparent and such that the location of each character of said sequence in the geometric grid has a predetermined relationship to the location of at least one character of said master code sequence of characters **in contrast with specific steps of Applicant's invention** where providing a sleeve sized and shaped to receive said encryption sheet therein, where said sleeve having an outer end and a character window positioned in a selected fixed geometric relationship to said outer end; and selecting a master word having a known master sequence of master characters; and recording said master word on said encryption sheet in a scrambled sequence of said master characters other than said master sequence along master line



of said boxes of said grid; and recording said master word along a data line of boxes of said grid in said scrambled sequence by a fixed geometric offset of each characters to at least one of said master characters by aligning said outer end of said sleeve with a master character and recording a data character on said encryption sheet through said character window to establish said fixed geometric offset; and retrieving the data word by finding said master characters in said scrambled sequence and locating data characters by reference to said fixed geometric offset of said data characters respectively to said master characters in said scrambled sequence by aligning said outer end of said sleeve with each master character and reading a corresponding data character through said character window **as recited in independent claim 13.**

12. Dependent claims 14-19 are allowable as being dependent upon Independent claim 13 and having additional allowable features therein.

13. Claims 7-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### **Conclusion**

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:


U.S. Patent No. US (4,870,683) teach personal identification encryptor system and method.

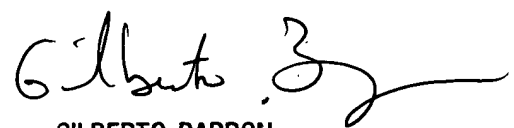
U.S. Patent No. US (6,055,635 A) teach method and device for facilitating access to a multitude of alphanumeric sequences.

U.S. Patent No. US (6,590,997 B2) teach files and methods employing common information in both header and steganographic embedding.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Zand whose telephone number is (703) 306-4169. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (8:00-5:00). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (703) 305-1830. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:-

Official (703) 872-9306

Kambiz Zand  
  
12/13/03

  
GILBERTO BARRON  
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